

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

PAGE 10

Serial No.: 09/919,006

Filing Date: July 31, 2001

Attorney Docket No. 100.216US01

Title: CLAMPING RECEPTACLE

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on February 5, 2003, as well as the art cited. Claims 1-35 are pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-16 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fathi (U.S. Patent No. 4,656,559) in view of Hata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,815,913). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a receptacle for confining circuit cards to different locations within a housing. The receptacle includes a frame comprising an array of slots, each slot containing one of the circuit cards and a cam selectively engageable with the frame for clamping the circuit cards within the frame.

Claim 12 is directed to a receptacle for confining circuit cards to different locations within a housing. The receptacle including at least one frame partitioned into first and second sub-frames by a first partition, each of the first and second sub-frames partitioned into an array of slots by a plurality of second partitions, each slot containing one of the circuit cards and at least one cam selectively engageable with the first sub-frame to clamp the circuit cards within the at least one frame.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP 2143

The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure. MPEP 2143 citing *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

The Examiner correctly states that Fathi does not disclose a cam selectively engageable

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

PAGE 11

Serial No.: 09/919,006

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with the frame for clamping the circuit cards within the frame. Further, the Examiner states "that Hata et al. teaches a cam (9) for clamping the circuit cards in col. 3, lines 50-55." Applicant finds that Hata also does not disclose a cam selectively engageable with the frame for clamping the circuit cards as found in claim 1 or claim 12. In contrast, Hata discusses an electronic component mounting device for mounting an electronic component on to a circuit board having a plurality of elevating members and a cam mechanism for moving the elevating members up and down. See Abstract. "The cam roller 9 of each elevating member 5 engages with the cam groove 8, the elevating members 5 and the elevating shafts 10 move up and down with the rotation of the rotary frame 1, and therefore, the suction nozzles 11 mounted on the lower ends of respective elevating shafts are caused to move up and down." See Col. 4, lines 58-64 There is no mention in Hata of clamping circuits within a frame as found in claims 1 and 12. Neither Hata nor Fathi alone or in combination teach or suggest a cam selectively engageable with the frame for clamping the circuit cards as found in claim 1 or claim 12.

In addition, the Examiner argues that it would have been obvious to incorporate the cam of Hata et al. with the frame of Fathi for the purpose of providing a more secure means of attachment of the circuit boards. Applicant finds no suggestion or motivation to modify Fathi or to combine Hata and Fathi. There is no motivation to modify the holder and heat sink for electronic components of Fathi with the electronic component mounting device of Hata. There is no reasonable expectation of success in combining a mounting device with a holder and heat sink for electronic components. Further, the references alone or in combination do not teach or suggest the receptacles of claims 1 or 12. As a result, the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness and claims 1 and 12 should be allowed.

Claim 2-11 and 13-20 depend from and further define allowable claims 1 or 12 and for at least the reasons provided above should also be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 21-35 are allowed over the prior art. In addition, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 5, 10, 17 and

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P. 014/015

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

PAGE 12

Serial No.: 09/919,006

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Title: CLAMPING RECEPTACLE

20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

PAGE 13

Serial No.: 09/919,006

Filing Date: July 31, 2001

Attorney Docket No. 100.216US01

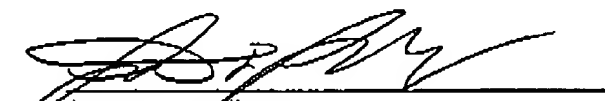
Title: CLAMPING RECEPTACLE

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-35 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 502432.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 332-4720.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 5-5-03

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